

Message Text

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R 142124Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 224925

FOLLOWING REPEAT NIAMEY 3364 SENT SECSTATE NOVEMBER 9:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 3364

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS PINS, NG

SUBJECT: STUDENT STRIKE NIGER

RER: NIAMEY 3297

1. STUDENT STRIKE IN NIAMEY IS CONTINUING WITH THE NATIONAL LYCEE CLOSED AND CITY'S OTHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS OPENED BUT WITH SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED ATTENDANCE. THERE ARE CURRENTLY FIVE SECONDARY SCHOOLS CLOSED IN PROVINCIAL TOWNS. ARMY AND MILITIA STILL MUCH IN EVIDENCE BUT FREQUENCY OF CLASHES WITH STUDENTS HAS CONSIDERABLY DECLINED.

2. IN RELATED EVENT, THE FRENCH DIRECTOR OF PEDAGOGIC CENTER, FREDERIC FULLENWARTH, WAS ASKED NOV 5 BY GON TO LEAVE COUNTRY WITHIN 48 HOURS. FULLENWARTH HAD REPUTATION OF SPEAKING CRITICALLY AGAINST CERTAIN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FOR CORRUPTION AND MALFEASANCE. FULLENWARTH WAS ARRESTED NIGHT OF NOV 3, AND INTERROGATED WHILE BEING HELD INCOMMUNICADO FOR 30 HOURS AFTER POLICE REPORTEDLY
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CONFISCATED COPIES OF ANTI-GOVERNMENT TRACTS IN HIS HOME. HE

WAS ALSO ACCUSED OF ALLOWING STUDENTS TO PRINT THEIR TRACTS AT THE PEDAGOGIC CENTER. SEVERAL NIGERIESE TEACHERS AND CIVIL SERVANTS SUSPECTED OF BEING IN OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT HAVE ALSO BEEN DETAINED FOR QUESTIONING. ALSO CANADIAN TEACHER REPORTEDLY WAS GIVEN WARNING BY POLICE ABOUT CRITICIZING GON PLUS OVERLY CLOSE IDENTIFICATION WITH DISSIDENT STUDENTS.

3. SCHOOL SITUATION IS AT IMPASSE WITH NEITHER SIDE SHOWING SIGNS OF COMPROMISE OR EVEN WILLINGNESS TO TALK. STUDENTS HAVE TACIT SUPPORT OF YOUNGER CIVIL SERVANTS AND INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY, BUT POPULATION AT LARGE, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, SECURITY SERVICES REMAIN UNSYMPATHETIC. BUCHE

UNQUOTE. RUSH

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Drafter: AF/W: C.L. DARIS
Enclosure: n/a
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